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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV FLASH
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK FLASH
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4344

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORT, MILI, UNSC, LE, IS
SUBJECT: LEBANON: MOVE TO SOUTH

1. SPOKE TO UNREP JOHN SAUNDERS AT 1430 LOCAL. HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ERSKINE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT IS GOING ON AT KAWKABA AND REPORTS UNIFIL, WHICH WANTS TO COOPERATE WITH LEBANESE, IS NOT CLEAR WHAT ORDERS LEBANESE UNIT HAS BEEN GIVEN. WE BOTH AGREED THAT THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ALMOST TOTAL LACK OF COORDINATION BY LEBANESE WITH UNIFIL.

2. HAVE JUST (1620) HAD LONG CONVERSATION WITH JOHNNY ABDO ON SCRAMBLER. IN ESSENCE, HE REPORTS ISRAELIS INTERFERING DIRECTLY TO SABOTAGE OPERATION. FOLLOWING IS HIS ACCOUNT:

(A) THREE DAYS AGO HE SENT LT. HOMSI TO MARJAYOUN TO SEE HADDAD. HOMSI WAS UNABLE TO MEET ALONE WITH HIM
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BECAUSE IDF LIAISON OFFICER MIZRACHI INSISTED ON BEING PRESENT DURING ALL CONVERSATIONS. MIZRACHI HAD ASKED WHAT LEBANESE INTENDED TO DO AND HOMSI HAD GIVEN HIM DETAILS OF PROPOSED MOVEMENT SOUTH.

(B) MIZRACHI HAD THEN ASKED WHAT LEBANESE WERE PLANNING TO DO FOR HADDAD. HOMSI HAD SAID THEY WERE PREPARED TO GIVE

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HIM A NEW PASSPORT IN A FALSE NAME AND $20,000 AS A FIRST INSTALLMENT. MIZRACHI ASKED WHEN HE WOULD BE EXPECTED TO LEAVE AND HOMSI SAID WHEN ARMY ARRIVED IN AREA AND HE TURNED COMMAND OVER TO HIS DEPUTY. MIZRACHI HAD INSISTED THAT ARRIVAL MUST BE POSTPONED 48 HOURS, AND THAT WHEN TROOPS ARRIVED AT KAWKABA THEY MUST REMAIN THERE FOR FOUR DAYS.

(C) LT. HOMSI HAD SENT A MESSAGE AS DEMANDED BY MIZRACHI. IT HAD ARRIVED LATE AFTERNOON OF 30TH AND ABDO HAD REPLIED THAT IT NO LONGER POSSIBLE DELAY MOVEMENT.

(D) AT 1900 HOURS ON 30TH IDF HAD ENTERED LEBANESE TERRITORY AND BEGUN PLANTING MINES ALONG ROAD FOR STRETCH OF 800 YEARS AT LATITUDE OF IBL AS-SA'QI, EFFECTIVELY PREVENTING USE OF ROAD SOUTH WHICH LEBANESE PLANNED TO TAKE.

(E) LT. HOMSI WAS THEN ASKED BY MAJ. HADDAD TO COME TO HIS HEADQUARTERS AT TEL NHAS. HE ARRIVED TO FIND HADDAD, MIZRACHI, HADDAD'S DEPUTY LT. ZAATAR, AND ISRAELI OFFICER WHO INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS GENERAL YANNUSH (PHONETIC), COMMANDER OF NORTHERN SECTOR OF ISRAEL. YANNUSH TOLD HOMSI TO TAKE OUT PAPER AND PENCIL AND WRITE DOWN WHAT HE WAS GOING TO SAY. HE SAID HE WAS IDENTIFYING HIMSELF SO LEBANESE COULD PROTEST WHEREVER THEY LIKED. YANNUSH THEN SET FORTH FOLLOWING:

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(1) HE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF IDF AND IN NAME OF ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. "WE DO NOT ACCEPT THAT LEBANESE ARMY ENTER THE SOUTH VIA KFAR MISHKE AND KAWKABA."
(2) ONLY ROAD THAT CAN BE ACCEPTED IS THAT THROUGH NABATIYA AND QA'QA'IYA, OR THE COASTAL ROAD VIA TYRE.
(3) SHIDIAC AND HADDAD ARE THE ONLY OFFICERS ACCEPTED IN THE REGION.
(4) IF LEBANESE ARMY PROCEEDS ALONG PLANNED ROUTE AND PASSES REGION OF MAJOR HADDAD, IT WILL BE ENTIRELY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS. (LEBANESE INTERPRET THIS AS THREAT.
(5) LT. HOMSI MUST LEAVE THE REGION BY 10:00 THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

(F) LEBANESE UNIT WAS NOW WITH NORWEGIANS AND NEPALESE AT KAWKABA. THEY WERE BEING BOMBARDED BY ARTILLERY IN VICINITY OF MARJAYOUN. THEY WERE CONVINCED IT WAS ISRAELIS WHO WERE DOING SHOOTING BECAUSE THERE WERE NO MILITIAS IN MARJAYOUN AND THEY KNEW THAT HADDAD WAS NO PROBLEM. HOMSI SAID HADDAD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH OPPOSITION TO MOVE. IT WAS TRUE HE HAD REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT, BUT HE HAD DONE SO AT NIZRACHI'S ORDERS.

(G) LEBANESE COULD NOT REMAIN AT KAWKABA. DECISION WOULD BE

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TAKEN SHORTLY ON WHETHER TO PULL BACK OR PROCEED, MINES OR NOT.

3. COMMENT: SUGGEST ABOVE BE SHOWN TO WEIZMAN. IF IT IS TRUE THAT ISRAELIS HAVE MINED ROAD, IT WOULD BE PRETTY CLEAR INDICATION THAT THEY ARE PLAYING A CYNICAL GAME WITH US. I PRESUME THIS CAN BE CHECKED THROUGH UNTSO HEADQUARTERS HERE AND IN JERUSALEM AND WE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP HERE. IN MEANTIME, IT SEEMS TO ME TIME HAS ARRIVED WHEN WE MUST FISH OR CUT BAIT ON OUR CONTINUED ACQUIESCENCE IN ISRAELI DEROGATION OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY.
PARKER

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